

**State Board of Education
December 16, 2008
Item L**

TEAM: Commissioner's Office

DISCUSSION TOPIC: January 2009 Legislative Considerations

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The State Board annually creates a list of legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. This year the Commissioner recommends the following topics for the Board to consider:

Education-Related Implications of Passage of 34-Point Plan – (a) Expanded health curriculum to train students, teachers and community members to identify and avoid risks of sexual predation; (b) Requiring districts to check the Child and Adult Protection Registries for all existing and contemplated “employees” (broadly defined); (c) Requiring the DOE's Educator Quality Division to check the Child and Adult Protection Registries for all initial educator licensing applications, and for all applications for relicensure and reinstatement.

Bullying – A multidisciplinary subcommittee which includes members from both the DOE and the Human Rights Commission is attempting to reach consensus as to whether (and if so, how) to clarify the role of the education community in addressing bullying, including cyberbullying.

Transformation – The DOE's plan relating to Transformation and the 2009 legislative session is to request hearings before both education committees for the purpose of explaining them the concepts underlying Transformation, and to work with the State Board's policy commission to develop potential statutory and regulatory changes.

Technical Corrections – The Commissioner and department staff will continue to work on the annual technical corrections bill, which includes routine matters which require legislative fine-tuning, but the effects of which do not have significant policy implications.

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION: To review the list of legislative priorities and determine whether the Board wishes to add to the list or delete or modify any of the priorities on the list. If the Board requires additional information, it will be provided.

COST IMPLICATIONS: Monetary and staff resources which will need to be devoted to the various legislative initiative will vary from item to item. The Department is acutely aware of the manner in which the current budgetary trends, both in terms of personnel and operating budgets, will affect any and all of these initiatives.

STAFF AVAILABLE: Bill Talbott, Acting Commissioner; Mark Oettinger, General Counsel